Orangeburg

VOLUME 5.

SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 13, 1871.

NUMBER 13

THE ORANGEBURG NEWS

PUBLISHED AT OBANGEBURG Every Saturday Morning.

ORANGEBURG NEWS COMPANY

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION. One Copy for one year \$2.00 " Six Months..... Any one sending TEN DOLLARS, for a Clab of New Subscribers, will receive an EXTRA COPY for ONE YEAR, free of charge. Any one sending FIVE DOLLARS. as EXTRA COPY for SIX MONTHS, free of

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Presentment of Grand Jury.

MAY TERM 1871.

We, the Grand Jury, of Orangeburg County, for the May term of Court, in the year 1871, beg leave most respectfully, to report, that, acting under a solemn sense of the obligation of our oath, and of our duty to our fellow citizons, as the guardians of their interest, have, with an eye single to the public welfare, and utterly regardless of personal considerations, entered upon our functions of examining into the public offices and records of the County, and fer a Club of New Subscribers, will receive the following has been the result of our investigation.

SHERIFF, CLERK OF COURT AND JUDGE

OF PROBATE. 1. We have visited the offices of the Sheriff, the Clerk of Court and the Judge of Probate, and so far as we could ascertain, we found everything in good condition, and would add further, to the credit of these officia's, that we have heard no complaints lodged against

2. We found the jail in good condi tion. The apartments seem to be clean ly, well kept, and the prisoners comfortable. They complain, however, that their food is badly cooked, a point to which we desire to direct the attention of those who have the matter under su perintendance. We would also call the attention of Court, to the recent escape of several prisoners which we do not know whether to attribute to carelessness on the part of the keeper, or to the want of proper provision in the way of assistance in attending to their neces

POOR HOUSE.

3 We find the poor house in very good condition, and the inmates con-

and we call attention to the fact. We fiscal year ending 1st Nov., 1869, are in would also suggest in this connection, that some arrangements be made to make the Institution, as nearly as possible, self sustaining, and thus relieve the County of unnecessary burdens.

AUDITORS OFFICE.

4 We are aware that the last Grand Jury brought to the notice of the Court the STATE and the U. S. COURTS for the in the assessment of property by the old Board of Equalization, after the local assessors had made their returns, but we regard the grievance in this line as so great, and the assumption of power so unwarrantable that we cannot refrain from reiterating our complaints as the agents of the people.

It appears that local assessors were appointed who were supposed to be ac quainted with the lands assessed, and at an expense of several thousand dollars. and after a faithful return, their work was virtually set aside,) and of course the money paid to them for services was rendered a complete loss to the State, (by the Board of Equalization sitting in Orangeburg taking it upon themselves to assess the property_about which they knew nothing. A value was thus placed upon property which was entirely fictitious, the original assessments being raised from three to five times higher, We can see no reason for placing this fictitious value upon property, unless the Board of Equalization finding the debts of the Government would require high taxation, regarded it as less noticeable to increase the assessment than to raise the percentage. In as much, therefore, as this fictitious valuation may stand for years, we would most respectfully recommend to t e Governor to cause a reassessment, and at the same time instre a return according to real value.

COUNTY TREASURER. .

We have examined the County Treasarer's Office, and we find that the new Treasurer, F. II. Greene complains that he is some somewhat embarrassed in the discharge of his duties in consequence of the incomplete transfer of the books by the old Treasurer, T. K. Sasportas. The Agent of Mr. Sasportas, however, H. B. Johnson, explains that he is now busily engaged in the preparation of the books and papers for transfer.

Our attention was called to the fact, POR SALE.—ONE BUGGY AND that in the books of Mr. Sasportas, the \$489 25. one-third which was ordered to be taken off was not noted on the books as so de-DRIED APPLES and PEACHES, very ducted in many cases, which we regard,

We are also informed by a competent witness upon his oath, that T. K. Sasportas told said witness that "he had

bought county orders." We are further informed, by compent witnesses, whose sworn statements we have in our possession, that T. K. Sasportas, the County Treasurer, bought county orders from them, in some cases, at a discount of twenty five per ceut. and in others, at five and eight per cent.

These facts in regard to the County Freasurer are of such a serious nature that we present them to the Court as sufficient grounds for his indictment.

We also have evidence befor us that county and school orders have been bought to a large extent, by other County Officers, and in one case, more than half of said orders have been paid, while, at the the same time, we have no evidence of any teacher having been direct ly paid by the Treasurer, and we are in formed that many teachers have repeat edly presented their orders for payment. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

6. In reference to the old board of County Commissioners, we herewith anpend, and in corporate as part and parcel of this report, certain matters to which the attention of the Grand Jury has been called under a resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, passed

Memoranda obtained from the Offices of the County Commissioners and County Treasurer of Orangeburg County un der Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, and Submitted to the

Grand Jury at May Term, 1871. 1. The attention of the Grand Jury s directed to the minute book of the Old Board. According to the claim for services of the clerk of the Old Board. filed on January 7th, 1871, the Board must have held 119 regular sessions during the year ending 1st Nov., 1870. The minutes are recorded of twenty two We regard that the expense from Jan | meetings, and there are none later than h 1311, to day 1st 4571, as very high, July Both, 1870 The minutes of the similar condition; and the same is the

> The law requires that every claim upon county funds shall be vouched by an affidavit, and when allowed, shall be recorded in the minutes of the board The instances where these matters were neglected are extremely numerous, as an inspection of the minutes and vouchers

2. As to the amounts drawn by the various members of the Old Board in orders on the County Treasurer, as shown in the ledgers kept by the said board.

WILLIAM N. MOUNT.

Of amounts drawn previously to August 1869, no account kept.

From August to Dec., 1869 Commis ioners' Fund, \$1322. Public Building Fund, \$320

From January to Nov. 1871, Com

nissioners' Fund, \$236.85. On other funds, \$1020.25.

From Licenses, \$166. Total recorded from Aug. '69 to Nov. 70, \$3065.10.

HENRY DICKSON.

1869, no record. From Aug to Dec. '69, Commissioners' Fund. \$880.05

Of amounts drawn previously to Aug.

Other Funds, \$72.50, From Jan'y to Nov. '70, Commission

ers' Fund, \$897.65.

Other Funds, \$14 From Licenses, \$115 Total recorded from Aug. '69 to Nov. 70, \$1979.20.

JOHN DAVIS

Of amounts drawn previously to Aug. 186 , no record, except that there is a eash account of amounts received from Licenses receiv d by him from Dec. 5, '68 to Oct. 4, '69, of \$566.

From Aug. to Dec. 1869, Commission ers' Fund, \$1200.45.

Other Funds, \$615.61 From Jan'y to Nov. '70, Commissionr's Fund, \$475.50. Other Funds, \$69.90. From Licenses, \$197

Total \$3124.46.

CHARLES S BULL.

Of amounts drawn previously to Aug From Aug. to Dec. '69, Clerk's Fund,

Other Funds, \$248. From Jan'y to Nov. '70, Clerk's (Co

Com'rs) Fund, \$462. From Licenses, (recorded), \$157.49,

Other cash ackn whed in his claim on ed, in the year, as far as ascertained by 1870, which voucher the Grand Jury Total \$1544.24.

each one for all the services of 1869, which in the instance of each Commissioner and the Clerk was not itemized. and the orders drawn correspond.

3 As particular instances under this ine him. branch of the subject, the attention of the Grand Jury ic called to the following orders drawn on Commissioners Fund in favor of outside parties:

of J. A. Enslow & Ca. \$13 26. By John Davis, Qut. 13, '70, in favor

of P. H. Salvo, \$47 4. By John Davis, 68 13, '70, in favor

of Knowlton & Bull. 85. By W. N. Mount, Nov. 1, '70, in favor tioned. of G. H. Cornelson, \$86.85.

By Chas. S. Bull, May 9, '70, in favor of D. R. Barton, \$12. Also to the discorpancy between the

two ledgers kept b, the Clerk (one of which purports to be a copy of the oth-On old ledger p 24, \$150.

On new ger p 55, \$350. 4. As to License and cash from the same, there is no recount prior to 1st Nov., 1869 eres to be papers in the office, from which to accurate account can be made up, and a eash account of

According to the cash account kept by Charles S. Bull, as Clerk of the Board, the collections for Licenses amounted from 1st Nov., '70, to \$815.50.

Of this amount, W. N. Moun and unaccounted for is \$15.50.

But a close inspection of the book from which the Loenses were taken shows that at various places leaves have been torn out between the stubs; while the stubs are numbered consecutively. and the eash account and stubs corres pond. In 'his connection, the Grand Jury are requested to examine the Clerk communicated with all holders of Licenses whom he could find out, and the fact has been ascertained by his investigatio is, that a great many Licenses were issued, and the money collected thereon, of which no account is to be found in

The following are special cases in this

Licenses issued and the Licenses record- and Bridge Fund \$219 dated May 21st,

Mr. Van Tussel, Clerk of the present are requested to examine critically, and Board. As a particular instance, the especially the signature of "H. J. Ger-The law allows the County Commis. Grand Jury will find by investigation, sioners to receive for their services \$3 that on the first day of August, 1870, per day, not exceeding 100 days in a Mr. M. Rich took out two Licenses, one year, and should be audited by the for a store at Jamison's, and one for a the voucher on the fle of the present noted on a stub, while No. 12 is a Li- named. Board, of 7th Jan'y. cense for another party. But there has There is but one can voucher for been a stub torn out between the two. a fragment of which remains in the book. By reference to the cash account of the Old Board of Commissioners, the Grand but was sworn to, and afterwards item. Jury will find a due account of No. 11, ized to a larger amount, in every case but no account of the No. 12, which far in excess of the legal allowance for Mr. Rich paid for, and now holds Mr. James Van Tassel, and Champy, of services It is impossible from the re- M. Rich is resident now in the town of Messrs. Doyle & Champy: also to E. I cords of the office to make the vouchers Orangeburg, and can be summoned by Cain and Henry Gerald or Generald,

5. In dismissing the subject of Liceuses, the attention of the Grand Jury is directed to the fact that there has boen great remissuess in the requiring of By John Davis, Oc. 13, '70, in favor bonds from tavern keepers, and the diffihas been greatly increased by the ab- 7th. 1871. We have endeavored to insence of these; so that it required a

Commissioner's Office, a careful or m

er) in regard to the amounts of ord rs Treasurer have some and of voucher in waste attending the administration of the charged to Charles Bull in January, the County Commissioner's Office. The public finances. investigation in this particular could, with advantage, be extended to the cases of exception in this regard. As was complete, and it required a great outlay of ment. time and careful search to take a comparison. The field is a boundless one, but it is hardly possible, at this day, to of two years and

S. Bull on the 12d April, 1871, concern- distance, and are not so fortunate as to a public Act, and continue in force for ing certain orders. The affidavit is on know when money arrives at the Trees- a term of twenty years. paid \$166; John Davis, \$197; Henry missioners. A reference to page 38 of We are compelled to call the attention Dickson, \$115; Chas. S. Bull. \$157.49. the Do ket of Ciaims, and to page 34 of of the Court to the improper conduct of minutes of the Board, will show to the Board of Examination in issuing In all distributed among the members Grand Jury that Mr. Ball is mistaken school certificates to Teachers who can and clerk of the board, (as recorded). as to the last order of \$7.75 mentioned be proved to be incompetent, and we beg

7. In addition to the matters noted issued should be immediately cancelled. above, it is in the knowledge of various parties, that large sums of money went into the hands of the Old Board shortly after its organization, of which no intelligible account has been kept. Something over \$600 was turned over from of the present Board, who, under advice, Parish: it is said, also, that various sums the Commissioners of the Poor of Orange were placed in the hands of the County Commissioners under divers military oralers; if this be so, what became of the money, we know not.

S. Another case for your careful investigation, is as follows: We are informed that one Henry Gerald, or Generald, built a bridge in St. Matthews' Parish for \$80. In order to ascertain if this be true, we suggest that he be sum. more names on each bond who are irremoned before the Grand Jury to testify | sponsible. Our report of this matter is as follows:

First On the Docket of Claims, page 1 112, No. 219, there is an entry of May, different parts of the County in rather

Secondly. In the minutes of May 28th, 1870. (minute book, p. 74.) the ville, claim of "Henry Gerald \$80" is recorded as having been approved, and paid by an order on County Treasurer; and there is no mention of any such claim as "H J. Gerald 219."

Thiraly, In the old ledger, under Road and Bridge Fund, on page 13, occurs the following entry:

Fourthly. In the new ledger, under Road and Bridge Fund, on page 45, occurs the following entry: May 21 | H. J. Gerald 219 ||219 00

the amount altered. Fifthly, Among the vouchers (letter Being a difference of \$330 between G) appears No. 219, H. J. Gerald, Road

evidently with the name changed and

Sixthly. Messrs. Do; le & Champy have in their possession a County order. dated May 28th, 1870, No. 219, payable County Treasurer. The compensation store at Lewisville, for which he paid the to Henry Gerald or order for \$80, on of the members of the Board is not sum of \$25 each, making \$50. The account of Bridge Fund. The order is vouched for the year 1870 at all, and numbers of these Licenses were 11 m d endorsed on the back "Henry Generald;" and the Clerk's compensation is not 12. An examination of the Tavern Li- and the handwriting is different from vouched for the year 1870, except by cense Book will show No. 11 regularly that inside the voucher, No. 219 above

Seventhly, Mr. Frank H. Greene, as County Treasurer, has an entry in his books that he has paid about \$40 on ac count of order of H. J. Generald, for

For further information, we refer the Grand Jury to Messrs. Frank H. Greene, the Grand Jury, if they desire to exam- also to the list of claims paid and allowed by the Old Board of County Commissioners published in the ORANGEBURG News last winter.

that the investigations were made by us under a resolution of the New Board of culty of making the above investigations County Commissioners, passed January sert these memoranda nothing but what tedious and careful inquiry to arrive at we deemed of sufficient importance to enthe information collected as above men- gage the serious attention of the Grand Inquest of the County. Amid the ex-6. As to the correspondence of the treme difficulties of the work, and, its orders paid by the County Treasurer, distasteful nature, we have only been and the records of the County stimulated to pursue these investigations the hope that a more vivorous consor. up of the acts of Public Officers may of the orders paid by the late County remedy some of the extravagance and

> Respectfully, your fellow-citizens, IZLAR & DIBBLE

stated before, the vonchers are very im- we present the old Board of County perfect, and the minuter extremely in- Commissioners to the Court for indict-

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

7. We examined the School Commis John Davis, charging him with \$566 re- trace out, with the few helps, in the sioners' Office, and we find that more ceived for Licenses, and unaccounted shape of recorded proceedings, the acts pay orders have been issued than the appropriations to meet them, and therefore we recommend that the teachers be paid pro rata, so that those living at a

the Court to require that all certificates

8 We have examined the bonds of the County Officers, and we find the following deficiences :

On Mr. Greene's bond, the County Treasurer, we find the names of W. L. W. Riley and J. W. Read, both of whom are irresponeible. We also find the names of E. L. Deine and W. J. Etter, naither of whom own proporty in

We would recommend that the Treasarer be required to furnish additional

In investigating the bonds of the oth er County Officers, the Jury find one or

1870, which now stands "if, J. Gerald bad condition. Our attention has been vs. Bridge Fund, 8219;" but which is called particularly to the fact that the clearly changed by erasure and re-writ- Old Charleston Road, in Orange Towning from "Heavy Gerald vs. Bridge ship has not been worked for several years, and also to the New Bridge Causeway on the road from Columbia to Black. and sitting in General Assembly, and by

to reach. Some of the County books are shamefully out of order. There exferent persons, implying a favoriteism

In conclusion, we desire to express our gratification at the harmony which has porated bodies charactarised our deliberations.

STILES R. MELLICHAMP,

OFFICIAL.

Acts and Joint Resolutions Passed by the Legislature---Session 1870 and 1871.

An Act to Supply the Deficiency in the Appropriation for the Support and Maintenance of Free Sch ols for 1870. Be it enacted by the Senate and

House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the au-Athority of the same, That the sum of forty thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby, appropriated out of any moneys in the Pressury, not otherwise appropriated, to pay the salaries of the free schools in the State, to January 1, 1871, which, inadequate appropration already made, have been unpaid, to the great distress of the teachers employed in the same: Provided, That the foregoing appropriation shall be paid on the order of the State Supertendent of Education, with the approval of the Governor, and no part of said appropriation shall be used In conclusion, we would merely state for any other purpose than the payment of the salaries of teachers.

Approved February 28, 1871.

An Act to Incorporate the "Mechanics' Union, No. 1," of the City of Charles ton. S. C.

SECTION 1. Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same, That Henry Cannoville, and such other persons as may now, or hereafter shall be associated with him, are hereby made and declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "The Mechanics" Union, No 1," of the city of Charleston.

SEC. 2. That said association shall have succession of officers and members, according to its by-laws, shall have power to make by-laws (not repugnant to law) and to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter at will, to sue and be sard, plead and be impleaded in one Court in this State, to retain, possess and enjoy all such property, real and personal, as it may possess or be entitled to, or which shall hereafter be given, bequeathed to, or in any manner acquired by it.

and to sell, alien or transfer the same. S.c. 3. That this Act shall be deemed

Approved February 28, 1871

In Act to Incorporate the Champion Hook and Ladder Company, of Ches-

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met and sittin in General Assembly and by the authority of the same, That Crocket Champion, Malachi Grayson, Theodore Boid, Benjamin Walder, B. F Michael, Harrison Bailey, John Lee, and their associates and successors, de and they are hereby, constituted a body corporate and politic, under the name and style of Champion Hook and Ladder Company, of Chester, with a capital stock not exceeding the sum of five thousand dollars, with the right to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded, in any Court of competent jurisdiction, to have and use a common seal, and the same to alter at will and pleasure, and with all other rights, privileges and immunities that are now secured by law to like incorpora-

SEC. 2. That this Act shall be deemed a public Act, and shall remain in force 9. We find the roads and bridges in for the term of fifteen years. Approved February 28, 1871.

An Act to Incorporate the Rock Hill Hook and Ladder No 332. Company SECTION 1. Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, now met the authority of the same, That Captain E. A. Hutchinson, Captain Iredell Jones, The Grand Jury, with their solomn W M McCully, M D Steele, R H Mcesponsibilitie in view, are seriously im- Cosh, Charles E Cobb, P G Keesler and pressed that there are other important and successors, be, and they are hereby, J H Witherspoon, and their associates matters which they have not been able constituted a body corporate an politic s much confusion in the statements of and Ladder Company, with a capital stock not exceeding the sum of five in the expenditures of money. Such and sued, to plead and be impleaded, in thousand dellars, with the right to sue practice, if not malfeasance, is certainly any Court of competent jurisdiction, to criminal, and injurious to the public have and to use a common seal, and the to alter at will and pleasure, and with all other rights, privileges and immunities that are now secured by law to like incor-SEC. 2. This Act shall be deemed a

public Act, and shall remain in force for the term of fourteen years. Approved February 28, 1871.